

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 00238 252224Z

21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SCI-06 FEA-02 INT-08 FPC-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 AEC-11 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-02 STR-08

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POUCHED FOR INFO ALL CONSULATES IN CANADA

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SUBJECT: ENERGY: FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL ENERGY CONFERENCE: URANIUM

1. AT MORNING JANUARY 23 SESSION OF FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL ENERGY CONFERENCE, ENERGY MINISTER MACDONALD, NOTING A MOVEMENT TOWARDS AN "ELECTRICAL SOCIETY" WHICH WILL BE HEAVILY DEPENDENT UPON NUCLEAR FUELS, ANNOUNCED VARIOUS NEW GUIDELINES REGARDING URANIUM WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL AT EARLY MEETING OF PROVINCIAL MINES MINISTERS. THE GENERAL TERMS OF THESE GUIDELINES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) PROVEN RESERVES OF URANIUM WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE HELD AT ALL TIMES TO MEET, AS A MINIMUM, THE FUELING REQUIREMENTS OF CANADIAN REACTORS WHETHER IN EXISTENCE OR COMMITTED.

(B) EXISTING AND POTENTIAL PRODUCTION CAPACITY MUST ALSO BE SHOWN TO BE CAPABLE OF PRODUCING AT A RATE TO MEET FUTURE DOMESTIC NEEDS.

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 00238 252224Z

(C) URANIUM WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE EXPORTED IN THE MOST ADVANCED FORM POSSIBLE IN CANADA UNLESS SPECIFIC EXEMPTION IS GRANTED BY THE CONTROL AGENCIES.

(D) THE GOVERNMENT STOCKPILE OF URANIUM WILL BE DISPOSED OF SOLELY WITHIN THE DOMESTIC MARKET AND, PRIOR TO ITS TOTAL DISPOSAL, WILL BE AVAILABLE ON A COMMERCIAL LOAN BASIS TO MEET ANY SHORT TERM NEEDS OF CANADIAN PRODUCERS PROVIDED THAT AT ALL TIMES IT WILL BE FURTHER PROCESSED BY CANADIAN FACILITIES.

(E) THE CROWN CORPORATION, ELDORADO NUCLEAR LIMITED, WILL BE PROVIDED WITH FUNDS TO ENABLE IT TO EXPAND ITS EXPLORATION PROGRAM IN CANADA.

2. MACDONALD ALSO STATED THAT GOC WILL INTRODUCE LEGISLATION CONCERNING FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF URANIUM AT THE NEXT SESSION OF PARLIAMENT.

3. IN ADDITION TO MINES MINISTERS' MEETING, MACDONALD SAID GOC ALSO PLANS TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES, SEEKING VIEWS ON RESERVE FORMULA, HOW RESERVE REQUIREMENTS CAN BE EQUITABLY DISTRIBUTED AMONG PRODUCERS, AND ON APPROPRIATE COST FACTOR TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN ESTIMATING RESERVES. HE SAID GOC DID NOT WANT TO SEE RESERVE FORMULAE EVOLVE WHICH PLACE WHOLE BURDEN OF PROTECTION ON URANIUM PRODUCER AND THAT HOPEFULLY THERE WOULD BE PROVISIONS ENCOURAGING CANADIAN UTILITIES TO CONTRACT FOR THEIR LONG-TERM REQUIREMENTS. HE FURTHER INDICATED THAT MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN TO ASSIST EXPLORATION THROUGH ENLARGED TECHNICALLY-ORIENTED PROGRAM IN HIS MINISTRY.
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